



Jefferson County Conservation District

7-16-03

205 W. Patison St., Port Hadlock, WA 98339 - Phone (360) 385-4105

Dr. Jeff Koenings, Director
Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Dear Dr. Koenings,

I would like to take this opportunity to compliment your staff on the successful implementation of phase one of the Salmon Cr. Habitat Restoration project in Jefferson Co.. A bit of background on the project may be of interest to you.

Several years ago Conservation District staff, working with Thom Johnson (WDFW Fish Biologist), began working on a habitat improvement project with the owners of a farm on Salmon Cr. that contains about 40% of the Summer Chum Salmon spawning habitat. The stream had been channelized for agriculture in the early 1900's and it was evident that the limited amount of habitat was a limiting factor for recovery of that stock of summer chum. Our plan was to create a new, more natural channel that would increase the amount, and improve the quality, of the salmon habitat in that reach. After obtaining funding from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board and North Olympic Salmon Coalition we contracted with the WDFW Habitat Program for project design and obtained the project permits. As the project plans developed the landowners decided to sell the farm. Since it is such critical habitat (the farm also includes a section of Snow Cr.) WDFW was able to purchase the property using a grant from USF&WS. Since it is now WDFW property it was decided that it would be appropriate for a WDFW Business Services crew to do the actual construction.

In June the crew started construction of phase 1, excavation of the new channel with large woody debris and gravel placement. This phase of the project was completed yesterday and everyone involved is **extremely** pleased with the work done so far. The project is an outstanding example of inter-agency/organization cooperation and partnerships, involving not only JCCD and WDFW but North Olympic Salmon Coalition and Jefferson Land Trust. I would like to recognize the following WDFW staff for their parts in making this important project happen.

****Thom Johnson (Regional Fish Bio):** Thom has gone "above and beyond" to make this project happen. His assistance with landowner contacts, permit and funding applications, and project coordination has been invaluable.

****Kay Caromile and Bob Barnard (WDFW engineers)** designed the project. Kay ended up managing the project on the ground and has done a superlative job.

****WDFW Business Services** provided an exceptional construction crew, headed by Ralph Towsland. I have been involved in several salmon habitat projects and was **very** impressed with the work that this crew has accomplished so efficiently. They have done an outstanding job and I hope we can get the same crew back for phase 2 next summer.

****Bert Loomis (Region 6 Lands Manager)** worked very hard on the property purchase, without which the project could not have moved forward.

****Randy Johnson (WDFW Watershed Steward)** wrote the grant that resulted in funding for the property purchase from USF&WS.

Of course there were other WDFW staff involved in the background whom I do not know and to whom we owe our thanks, but these were the key people that made the project happen. You are lucky to have such outstanding individuals working for your agency. We look forward to a continuing partnership with WDFW on salmon recovery projects.

Sincerely,

Al Latham
JCCD Manager

C: Sue Patnude
Owen Loshbough